



The President's Daily Brief

3 June 1971

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

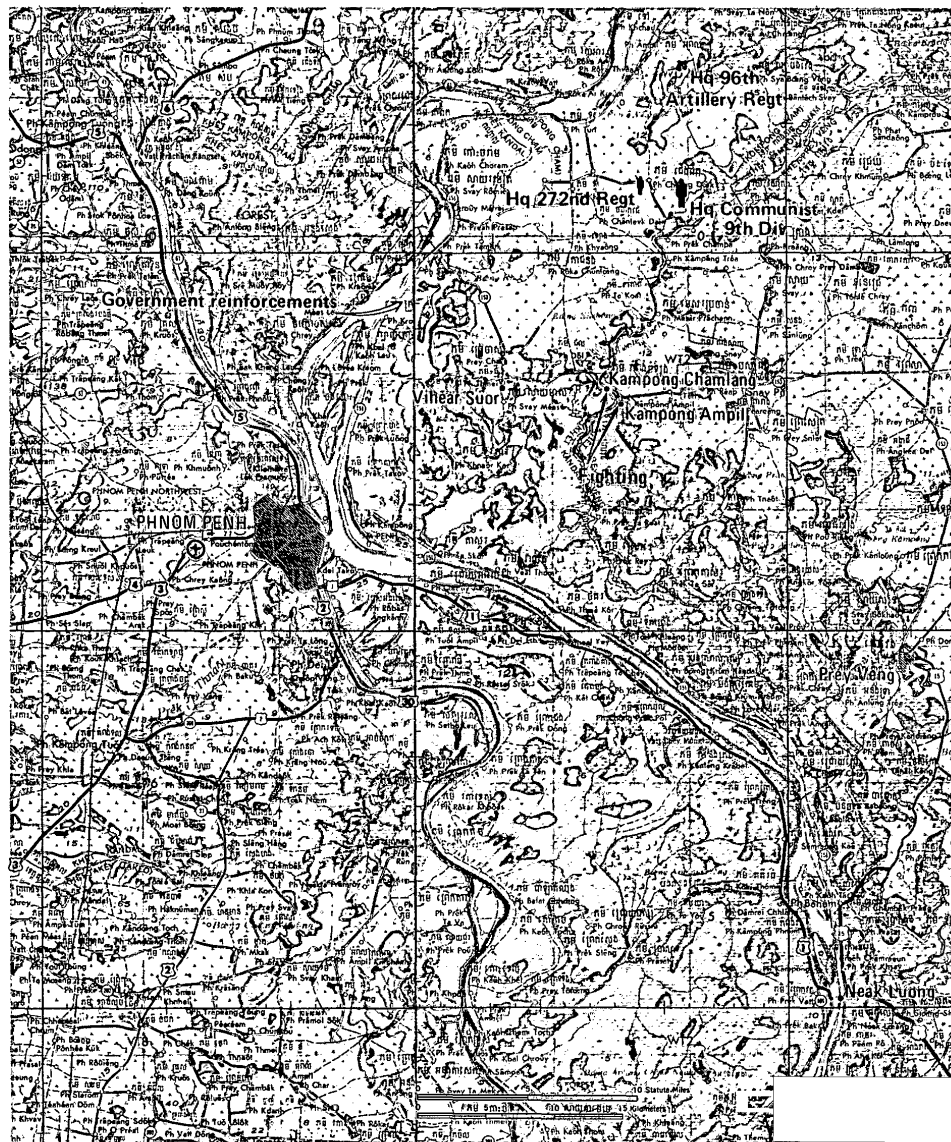
Communist forces have made several sharp mortar attacks in recent days on Cambodian positions 10 to 15 miles from Phnom Penh. (Page 1)

The Soviets are preparing to launch another manned Soyuz spacecraft. (Page 2)

Jordan's King Husayn has ordered "decisive" action against some of the fedayeen. (Page 2)

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Phnom Penh Area



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CAMBODIA

During the past few days, enemy forces have made several sharp mortar and ground attacks on Cambodian positions some 10 to 15 miles northeast of Phnom Penh. Government troops, including several elite Khmer Krom units currently engaged in clearing operations in this area, have managed to hold their ground. Thus far, 20 Cambodians have been killed and another 200 wounded.

Two battalions of government reinforcements from Phnom Penh are slowly making their way toward the embattled positions, and other reinforcements apparently will be sent shortly. The government has also asked the South Vietnamese for assistance.

These are the sharpest Communist attacks since early April, when the enemy struck hard at government units along Route 4. Elements of the Communist 9th Division may be participating. Last week the division's headquarters--as well as that of its subordinate 272nd Regiment--moved from near the Chup plantation into the area of the current fighting. The headquarters of the Communist 96th Artillery Regiment apparently is also still within striking distance of the threatened government positions.

This is the closest known location to the capital of any major Vietnamese Communist ground forces since the war began. It is too early, however, to determine whether these developments are related to any impending action against Phnom Penh itself. It is possible that the Communists are trying to provide a screen for a waterborne infiltration route to be used in the area between the Mekong and Prey Veng town after the area becomes flooded later this month.

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NOTES

USSR: The Soviets are preparing to launch another manned Soyuz spacecraft within the next several days. Support ships are taking positions to monitor the flight and could all be in place by 4-5 June.

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The Soviets may intend to carry out the program planned for Soyuz-10, which failed to dock with Salyut.

Jordan: King Husayn, enjoying the upper hand over the fedayeen, appears intent on pressing ahead with operations against their positions both in Amman and in the northwest. Yesterday he publicly ordered Prime Minister Tal to take "decisive" action against the "handful" of "professional criminals and conspirators" who he claims are trying to establish their own independent state. Husayn's careful phrasing suggests he hopes to forestall charges in the Arab world that he is out to liquidate the fedayeen movement.

Cyprus: President Makarios is in Moscow trying to coax a strong statement of support from the Soviets, but the odds are against his getting all he wants.

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Although the Soviets are likely to use the visit to play up their common interest with Makarios in staving off undue Greek and Turkish pressures on Cyprus, they will not want to upset their presently satisfactory relations with Turkey. They have in fact invited Turkish Prime Minister Erim to make a visit to the USSR, partly to soothe Ankara's pique over the Makarios visit.

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Chile-USSR: A Soviet delegation led by the vice minister of nonferrous mining arrived in Santiago late last week and, according to a Chilean mining official, will provide technical assistance to "expand and rationalize" copper production. The Chilean asserted that the technology and management techniques furnished by the US companies were inferior. The Soviet Union, he added, is helping to plan the conversion of the workshop at El Teniente (the former Kennecott facility) into a central production center of spare parts and equipment for all the large Chilean copper mines.

Peru - Communist China: A Peruvian trade mission is scheduled to travel to Communist China next week as a follow-up to commercial negotiations held in Lima earlier this spring. The mission will seek agreement on arrangements for trade and the settling of accounts. The delegation apparently also will be empowered to discuss the reciprocal establishment of commercial offices.

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